

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson St.
Craig, Colorado 81625**

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0032-DNA

PROJECT NAME: August 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Please see Attachments C, and Map 1 Below.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to lease, for potential oil and gas exploration and production, approximately 2,125.44 acres of Federal mineral estate within the Little Snake Field Office area. The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private landowners manage the surface estate. The mineral estate in the proposed project area is administered by the BLM. Three (3) parcels of varying sizes are proposed to be included in the upcoming August 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale. All of the acreage in the proposed project area is in Moffat County, Colorado. The legal descriptions and applicable land use stipulations are identified in Attachment C.

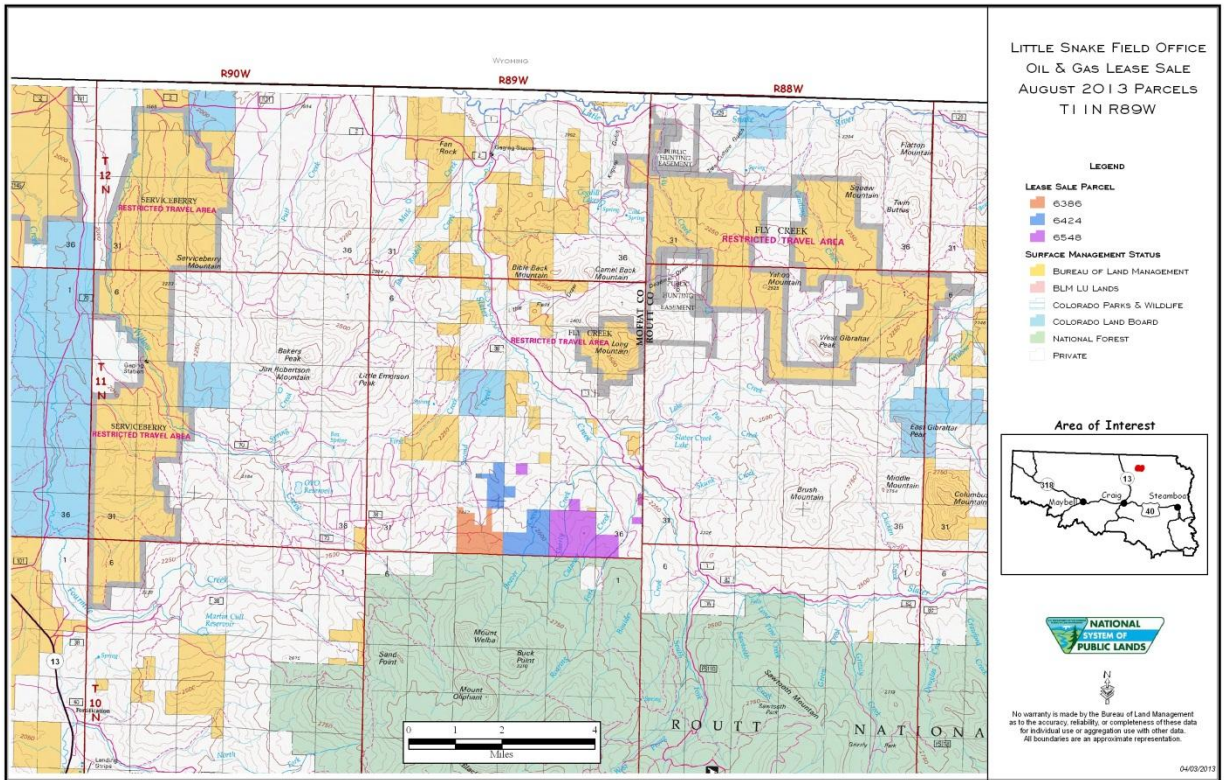
If the parcels are not leased at the upcoming August 2013 sale they would remain available to be leased for a period of up to two years to any qualified lessee at the minimum bid cost. Parcels obtained in this way may be re-parceled by combining or deleting other previously offered lands.

Mineral estate that does not get leased after an initial offering, and is not leased within a two year period, must go through a competitive lease sale process again prior to being leased.

The act of leasing does not authorize any development or use of the surface of lease lands without further application and approval by the BLM. After a parcel is successfully leased, the BLM may receive an Application for Permit to Drill (APDs). If and when APDs are received, additional site-specific NEPA analysis would be completed. .

Attachment C contains those parcels included in this analysis to be proposed for lease with applied stipulations. Definitions of applied stipulations can be found in Attachment D and maps of the parcels are found in Attachment E.

These three parcels were analyzed in the February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale environmental assessment ((EA) DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2012-0049 EA), amongst 56 other parcels, as part of the proposed action. As part of the Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) review, the parcels were reviewed to make sure the appropriate stipulations would be attached at the time of the lease sale. The decision record (DR) for this EA deferred these three parcels from leasing pending further review.



Map 1

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (LSFO ROD/RMP [October 2011]).

Date Approved: October 2011

Decision Language: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

- Allow for the availability of the federal oil and gas estate (including coalbed natural gas) for exploration and development. Objectives for achieving these goals include:
- Identify and make available the federal oil and gas estate (including coalbed natural gas) for exploration and development.
- Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources (including coalbed natural gas).
- Lease with standard lease terms and conditions stipulations, timing limitations,

- controlled surface use, or no surface occupancy stipulations.
- No parcels are in areas closed to leasing.

Section/Page: Section 2.13 Energy and Minerals/ page RMP-36

Other related documents that cover the proposed action:

Name of Plan: Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final EIS Plan Amendment

Date Approved: October 1991

Section/Page: Record of Decision for the Oil and Gas Plan Amendment to the Little Snake Resource Management Plan/EIS, Chapter 2/ page 11

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

Name of Document: February 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2012-0049-EA

Date Approved: 02/13/13

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the proposed action to lease these three parcels was previously analyzed in both the Little Snake RMP (2011) and the February 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA mentioned above. The RMP analyzed federal oil and gas resources available for leasing with standard stipulations or, where necessary add special stipulations including no surface occupancy, avoidance, or timing restrictions.

The DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2012-0049-EA for the February 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale analyzed leasing these parcels at a more focused scale. The parcels were deferred pending further review, but were later identified as suitable for leasing.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Three alternatives were analyzed in EA # DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2012-0049-EA. No issues were identified that would trigger analysis of additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action. The alternatives analyzed in the EA included leasing of all nominated parcels (Alternative 1), leasing portions of parcels with attached stipulations and deferral of parcels (Alt. 2), and the No Action alternative (Alt. 3) lease none of the nominated mineral estate. This range of alternatives adequately addresses current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

The BLM has reviewed the existing analysis and determined that conditions of the affected environment have not changed since completion of the February 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA on 02/13/12. Additional review of lands with wilderness characteristics was completed and found not to be present in the proposed lease parcels, therefore existing analysis remains suitable.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

The existing analysis reviewed leasing these parcels and identified direct, indirect and cumulative impacts for this action. These impacts encompass potential impacts from the proposed action.

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes. Full public review of lands available for leasing occurred during the RMP/EIS process. Additionally, the February 2013 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA involved multiple opportunities for public involvement including a two week public scoping, a 30-day public review period and protest opportunity. This allowed the public an opportunity to provide comments, which are then analyzed and incorporated into the environmental analysis as appropriate. Letters were also mailed to affected private land surface owners whose land overlies federal minerals proposed for leasing.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the Little Snake Field Office interdisciplinary team on 04/08/13. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the Little Snake Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Title	Resource Represented	Date
Ecologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Prime/Unique Farmlands, Surface Water Quality	04/08/13
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	04/10/13
Land Law Examiner	Legal Verification	04/18/13
Outdoor Recreation Specialist	WSA, W&S Rivers, ACECs, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	04/16/13
Rangeland Management Specialist	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	04/15/13
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	04/10/13

NAME OF PREPARER: Shawn Wiser

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Kathy McKinstry

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitute the BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands, and Minerals

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment C: Parcels Available for Lease with Applied Stipulations
Attachment D: Exhibits
Attachment E: Map Book

Note: The signed Conclusion in this DNA Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.